

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1338

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR NATO CSCE
SUBJ: US CSCE COMMISSION PARTICIPATION IN BELGRADE PREPARATIONS
AT NATO

REF: USNATO 1296

1. FURTHER TO THE PERMREP LUNCHEON DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF
US CSCE COMMISSION IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE BELGRADE MEETING
(REFTEL), NETHERLANDS CHARGE BUWALDA TOLD US MARCH 9 THAT HIS
AUTHORITIES WOULD LIKELY HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY WITH THE PROSPECT
OF PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS ON CSCE AT NATO BY LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH MEMBERS OF THE US CSCE COMMISSION OR MEMBERS OF ITS
STAFF THAT WERE NOT ALSO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.
BUWALDA SAID THAT THE DUTCH, OVER THE YEARS, HAVE HAD PROBLEMS
IN DEALING WITH DUTCH PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURES FOR REPRESENTATION
ON THE NETHERLANDS DELEGATIONS TO NATO MEETINGS, FROM WHICH THE
DUTCH GOVERNMENT HAD EXCLUDED SUCH REPRESENTATION ON THE BASIS
THAT NATO DISCUSSIONS NECESSARILY ENTAIL CLASSIFIED INFOR-
MATION OF A SENSITIVE CHARACTER. BUWALDA SAID THAT PARTICIPATION
BY MEMBERS OF THE US CSCE COMMISSION OR STAFF IN THE US DELEGA-
TION FOR THE BELGRADE GATHERING WOULD NOT PRESENT DIFFICULTIES.
AT THE SAME TIME, BUWALDA UNDERLINED HIS RESPECT FOR THE PRIN-
CIPLE ARTICULATED BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-HUPE AT THE PERMREP
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LUNCH THAT ANY MEMBER GOVERNMENT COULD NAME ANY INDIVIDUAL TO
ITS DELEGATION TO NATO OR ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODY.

2. A FURTHER CONCERN OF THE DUTCH, BUWALDA SAID, WAS THAT
THE FRENCH WOULD DILUTE THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY WOULD BE PREPARED
TO MAKE TO NATO CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE IF INDIVIDUALS OTHER THAN
THOSE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WERE INCLUDED IN THE US DELEGATION
FOR NATO MEETINGS. IF THE FRENCH WERE TO MOVE IN THIS DIRECTION,
BUWALDA SAID, THEY MIGHT INFLUENCE OTHERS OF THE NINE TO TAKE
SIMILAR STEPS AND THE RESULT WOULD BE LESS EFFECTIVE PREPARA-

TIONS BY THE ALLIES FOR BELGRADE.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION MARCH 9, FRENCH DCM DE LA FERRIERE TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS THEY EXPRESSED ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT PARTICIPATION OF CSCE COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF, AS PLANNED BY THE US, COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CHANGES IN THE NATURE OF ALLIED CONSULTATIONS IN NATO. THE FRENCH DCM RECOGNIZED THAT THE US AND EUROPEAN SITUATIONS WERE DIFFERENT, BUT CAUTIONED THAT THE PRECEDENT THE US INTENDED TO ESTABLISH COULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR THE EUROPEANS, BECAUSE OF THE VERY DIFFERENCES HE RECOGNIZED.

4. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CONSIDER DRAWING A DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE EXTENT OF US CSCE COMMISSION AND STAFF MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS AT NATO AND AT BELGRADE. WITH REGARD TO THE LATTER, WE ANTICIPATE NO OBJECTIONS FROM ANY QUARTER. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF THE APPREHENSION ALREADY EXPRESSED TO US BY THE FRENCH AND THE DUTCH, AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY WILL GARNER SUPPORT FOR THEIR VIEWS, WE SUGGEST THAT THE US ADHERE TO THE PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN CONNECTION WITH THE LAST CSCE EXPERTS GATHERING AT NATO, WHERE THE US CSCE COMMISSION WAS REPRESENTED IN THAT NATO CONSULTATION BY FSO GUY CORIDEN, WHO IS SECONDED TO THE COMMISSION STAFF FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. THIS APPROACH WOULD PRESERVE EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE
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COMMISSION IN CSCE WORK AT NATO WHILE AVOIDING AN AFFRONT TO EUROPEAN SENSIBILITIES. MORE IMPORTANT, IT WOULD ASSURE THE CONTINUED VIABILITY OF THE IMPORTANT NATO CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE. IF THE DEPARTMENT FAVORS THIS APPROACH, WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO INFORM THE ALLIES SOONEST. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

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